

# The Murfreesboro Diamond

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## Join Pike County Steppers to walk across Arkansas

MURFREESBORO -- The Cooperative Extension Service's biannual health initiative, Walk Across Arkansas, officially began this week. Individual Arkansans are encouraged to form teams in their respective workplaces, neighborhoods or other communities and join the effort. Heather Wingo, family and consumer sciences program associate for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said the Cooperative Extension Service has been using Walk Across Arkansas to promote health and active lifestyle changes in the state for about 20 years.

"The program's main goal is to increase physical activity," Wingo said. "We're working to help Arkansans overcome the state's high obesity rates and combat chronic disease throughout individuals' lifespans."

During the eight-week session, individuals will log their daily total number of minutes of physical activity — which isn't limited to walking. Running, gardening, playing or coaching a team sport — it all counts.

"A lot of Arkansans live close to parks or trails," Wingo said. "It's great when we see those being put to good use."

During the spring 2024 Walk Across Arkansas, 65 teams — 346 participants — logged more than 986,000 minutes of activity over eight weeks.

The registration window for the fall session is ended Sept. 8. The eight-week session begins Sept. 9.

### BE A STEPPER

However, for those that would like to participate and haven't yet registered, Pike County's Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Eva Langley has made the process as easy as possible.

Any local resident can be a part of the "Pike County Steppers" for the next eight weeks. Simply stop by the Pike County Extension office in Murfreesboro, any of the three Pike County Library Branches in Murfreesboro, Delight or Glenwood, or at either of the senior center locations in Murfreesboro or Glenwood and pick up an exercise log.

After completing the eight-week individual exercise log on November 3, simply return the form to the collection location and the results will be entered for you.

## The time is now for pecan orders

MURFREESBORO -- The Pike County Conservation District is now taking their annual holiday pecan orders.

The pecans will arrive in one-pound tamper proof bags. A variety of fudges are also available.

Orders must be paid for when placed. To place order, stop by the Conservation office at 131 N. Kelley Street in Murfreesboro on Monday thru Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Participants may also mail their order with checks made out to Pike County Conservation District to P.O. Box 178, Murfreesboro, AR 71958.

The last day to order will be October 24, with arrival being mid November.

Please call (870) 285-2424 for more information.

## Account, benefit set for MHS alum

MURFREESBORO -- A benefit account has been set up for MHS alum Jack Stuard at Murfreesboro's First State Bank of Pike County following his recent and severe injuries sustained in a vehicle accident.

All donations are greatly appreciated said the notice, and ask that all checks deposited into the account be made payable to Jack Stuard.

### BENEFIT SEPTEMBER 15

A benefit for the Stuard family has been set for Sunday, Sept. 15 at 11 a.m. in the CADC Senior Center in Murfreesboro.

Meals with be provided by donation, and will feature a variety of soups including potato, broccoli, taco, cheddar, veggie and chili. Cornbread, corn chips, desserts and drink will also be available.

At 12:30 p.m. a live auction will be headed up by auctioneer Steve Hill.

All proceeds from the event will go towards medical expenses for Stuard.



Submitted photos/Jillian Caldwell

**BATTLING WITH PANTHERS ...** The senior high Murfreesboro Rattlers lost their second game of the season at Fouke last Friday night 39-22. Pictured above (left) is Laytan Wilcher (13) utilizing a block from Cash Lowery (4) to move downfield, while (right) Bubba Stinson, who led the team with 77 yards rushing on the night, looks to break open a rush attempt into the Panthers' defensive secondary.

## Rattlers fall at Fouke, get long prep for Genoa Central

*'A game where we had a lot of self-inflicted wounds that we have to clean up'*

FOUKE -- The Murfreesboro Rattlers' loss at Fouke 39-22 last Friday night sets them at 0-2 to start the season headed into a bye week.

Coach Brad Chesshir said that the team has a good week of preparation in practice headed into the game.

"Defensively, we weren't perfect, but we were solid. We gave up one big explosive play in the first half that killed us"

Two short segments of the game -- toward the end of the second quarter and the start of the third quarter -- would ultimately doom the Rattlers' hopes of a victory.

Chesshir said the team "should have been up a touchdown at half" but a false start penalty killed a drive in the red zone.

That's something we can't do ... anytime an offense has a negative play, the odds of scoring go way down. We have to get better."

Then the first four minutes of the second half was describe by Chesshir as the "worst four minutes of my coaching career."

He said his team was caught in quicksand they couldn't escape, and while the team had good energy returning from the locker room, it really all got away from MHS so quickly.

"When you look at the football game, there were three plays that just haunt me -- three explosive runs we gave up that we just can't give up. One was on the first drive of the game, the other two were on the first plays of the two drives of the second half. We got out of position, didn't field the way we were supposed to on the defensive line and linebacker. It usually comes down to one person out of position -- and it killed us, leading to big runs."

Chesshir said the team went into the game knowing the Foreman starting running back was dangerous, but still "three plays killed us."

Then an interception returned for a touchdown increased the Rattlers' misery and ultimately created the cliché hole too big to climb out of halfway through the third quarter.

"They jumped on us quick and that's something we just can't allow moving forward. We have to be really good for four quarters -- not just two ... and we weren't great for the first two."

Chesshir said the offense was able to move the ball "at times" but there were too many mistakes on behalf of the offensive line for consistent success.

"It killed us, and we have to get better up front. We have to have better form, technique, stance, splits, running our feet and knowing exactly where to go. It's like we are thinking too much and not just playing at a high level offensive line, tight ends and our blocking game. We have to get better there."

Chesshir said that he wanted to take nothing away from Fouke's effort, and he wishes them "nothing but the very best" moving forward in their Class 3A slate.

"It's just a game where we had a lot of self-inflicted wounds that we have to clean up."

After not seeing as much progress as he wanted from game one to game two, Chesshir said the next two weeks will be vital for his Rattlers moving forward.

"Defensively, in the first half -- you take away the one big play -- I thought we swarmed and tackled a little better [than versus Centerpoint] ... but it wasn't perfect and not up to our standard. There were areas of improvement, but just not as much as you'd hope. We need this open week -- we need to get our minds right and get back to us, go get better."

Chesshir admits the first two games were

knowingly going to provide his squad a double edged sword -- tough opponents that provided opportunities for growth.

"We have to stay positive as a team, continue to coach as coaches, and go get better this week. We have two full weeks of practice and prep just to clean up all the things we haven't done well. We have to take full advantage of that."

Chesshir, who has previously admitted to not being a fan of open weeks from a coaching perspective, was very succinct in response to why he's happy about one now.

"It comes at a good time."

Statistically, the team was led at Fouke by Bubba Stinson, who gained 77 yards on eight attempts.

Brody Maroon had 38 yards and a TD on eight attempts, while Lathan Compton had 33 yards on seven attempts.

Kooper Caldwell would rush twice for six yards and a TD, and would pass 6/11 for 100 yards and a TD in relief of starter Laytan Wilcher.

Wilcher was 3/8 passing for 28 yards and a pair of interceptions.

Isaac Kuykendall led the team in receiving with 55 yards and a TD on two receptions. Maroon had a pair of catches for 29 yards.

Compton would lead the defense with 11 tackles, while Caldwell added nine. Stinson made eight tackles and Maroon five along with a fumble recovery.

The Rattler's next opponent, Genoa Central, sits at 0-1 after a Week 0 loss to Spring Hill 34-6 and a bye week. The Dragons will host the very same Fouke team this week, giving some real context prior to the matchup with Murfreesboro on August 20.



Submitted photo/Kendra Motley

**QUEEN JOCEE AND HER COURT ...** Murfreesboro High School has announced the 2024 Homecoming Court maids along with Queen Jocce Holt. Pictured (L to R) are sophomore Bella Frazier, junior Sydney Braden, senior Reid Spradlin, Queen Jocce Holt, senior Natalie Perrin, junior Teegan Barnett, junior Mabree Sweat and sophomore Ramsey Terrell. Also pictured is (bottom row, L to R) queen's attendants Wiley Lamb, Bailey Chesshir and Walden Caldwell. The Rattlers' 2024 homecoming game against Foreman will be played at Rattler Stadium on Friday, Oct. 4 starting at 7 p.m., with homecoming festivities beginning at approximately 6:15 p.m.



# 2024 winners of county fair pageant announced

BY DEWAYNE HOLLOWAY  
Editor, Glenwood Herald

GLENWOOD – The 2024 Pike County Fair Pageant couldn’t have asked for better weather Saturday, September 7, for the crowning of Karly Witt of Glenwood as the 2024 Miss Pike County Fair Queen.

The Pike County Fair Pageant featured four young men in the Mister category and 41 young ladies across nine categories. Categories, winners, and participants include:

**MISTER PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner - Clayton Smith (Glenwood)  
1st Alternate – Johnny Doss (Delight)  
2nd Alternate – Tucker English (Glenwood)  
3rd Alternate – Stetson Sutton (Amity)  
Photogenic – Johnny Doss (Delight)

**BABY MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner – Adley Owens (Amity)  
1st Alternate – Mallory Taylor (Amity)  
2nd Alternate – Oakley Shifflett (Hot Springs)  
3rd Alternate – Lilah McLelland (Murfreesboro)  
4th Alternate – Tilley Little (Murfreesboro)  
Photogenic – Adley Owens (Amity)

**MINI MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner – Gracie Terrell (Murfreesboro)  
1st Alternate – Caroline Fatherree (Amity)  
2nd Alternate – Swayze Horton (Glenwood)  
3rd Alternate – Raelee Boyd (Alpine)  
Photogenic – Remington Taylor (Glenwood)

**TINY MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner – Mabrie Frachiseur (Murfreesboro)  
1st Alternate – Hattie Horn (Kirby)  
2nd Alternate – Moyan Taylor (Amity)  
3rd Alternate – Blakeleigh Jackson (Murfreesboro)  
Photogenic – Hattie Horn (Kirby)

**LITTLE MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner – Laycen Watts (Delight)  
1st Alternate – Rylee Golden (New Hope)  
2nd Alternate – Alexa Vissering (Caddo Gap)  
Photogenic – Alexa Vissering (Caddo Gap)

**PETITE MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner – Emery Holmes (Murfreesboro)  
1st Alternate – Siddalee Tigue (Glenwood)  
2nd Alternate – Preslee Fatherree (Amity)  
3rd Alternate – Bentlee Bennett (Langley)  
Photogenic – Emery Holmes (Murfreesboro)

**DARLING MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner – Dally Minton (Glenwood)  
1st Alternate – Leah Linhoff (Nashville)  
Photogenic – Dally Minton

**YOUNG MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner – Braylee Ward (Murfreesboro)  
1st Alternate – Georgia Pinegar (Nashville)  
2nd Alternate – Nina Dunlap (Glenwood)  
3rd Alternate – Gracelynn Scott (Glenwood)  
Photogenic – Nina Dunlap (Glenwood)

**JUNIOR MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR**  
Winner – Madalynn Ward (Murfreesboro)  
1st Alternate – Braylee Kroof (Kirby)  
2nd Alternate – Hayden Benedict (Amity)  
3rd Alternate – Peytan Chambers (Glenwood)  
Photogenic – Hayden Benedict (Amity)  
Miss Congeniality – Willa Smith (Glenwood)  
Fashion – Madalynn Ward (Murfreesboro)  
Onstage Introduction – Madalynn Ward (Murfreesboro)  
Interview – Madalynn Ward (Murfreesboro)

**MISS PIKE COUNTY FAIR QUEEN**  
Winner – Karly Wilt (Glenwood)  
1st Alternate – Ruthie Smith (Glenwood)  
Fashion – Karly Wilt (Glenwood)  
Interview – Karly Wilt (Glenwood)  
Onstage Introduction – Ruthie Smith (Glenwood)

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• P.J. Tracy IV, Editor

• Christy Coccarelli, Office Manager/Photographer

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Please Send Change of Address Information to:

Murfreesboro Diamond

P.O. Box 550

Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Any erroneous statement published in the newspaper will be gladly and promptly corrected if called to the attention of the management.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
FRIDAYS AT 3:00 P.M.



Submitted photos

**LOCAL PAGEANT QUEENS ...** Area residents took titles at the 2024 Pike County Fair Pageant, including (above, L to R) Little Miss Laycen Watts of Delight, Junior Miss Madalynn Ward of Murfreesboro and Mini Miss Gracie Terrell of Murfreesboro. Pictured below (L to R) is Petite Miss Emery Holmes of Murfreesboro, Young Miss Braylee Ward of Murfreesboro and Tiny Miss Mabrie Frachiseur of Murfreesboro.



## Trail ride organized for Vet appreciation

BY BOB WILLIAMS  
Pike County Veterans Service Officer

PIKE COUNTY -- Attention all Veterans!  
Those who have proudly served their country that would love to gather with their fellow brothers and sisters for a day of adventure, food and music are invited ... and it’s absolutely FREE!

A generous patriotic individual has organized an outing to show his appreciation for those who have served our country in uniform. Hopefully, this will be the first of what may become an annual event, but its success depends upon participation.  
The event will take place on Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. to around 2 p.m. at the Kirby Landing area of Lake Greeson. A group of ATV (side-by-side) drivers from various clubs around the area who will take a limited number of veterans on a ride through the designated Arkansas State Park and Army Corps of Engineer trails around our beautiful Lake Greeson, starting and ending at Kirby Landing.  
Following the trail ride, a BBQ meal will be provided with live entertainment.  
Open seats for the ATV trail ride are limited, but the meal and entertainment are open to all veterans and their spouses.  
If you are a veteran, and interested in attending this event, I need you to RSVP no later than Wednesday, Sept. 18, by con-

tacting me, Bob Williams, the Pike County Veterans Service Officer at (870) 285-2249.  
Again ... YOU MUST RSVP so we can have a count of those wanting to participate in the trail ride and for the amount of food that is needed. When calling, leave your name and contact number and I will get back with you.



PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PIKE COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS  
PROBATE – FIRST DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
DAVID WAYNE ALLEN, DECEASED NO. 55PR-24-56

NOTICE

Last known address: 101 Church Street, Belcher, LA 71004  
Date of death: June 18, 2024

The undersigned was appointed ancillary administrator of the estate of the above decedent on 19th day of August, 2024.  
All persons having claims against the estate must exhibit them, duly verified, to the undersigned within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or they shall be forever barred and precluded from any benefit in the estate.  
This notice first published on September 11, 2024.

Edward L. Yarbrough, Jr.  
c/o Pike County Clerk  
P.O. Box 218  
Murfreesboro, AR 71958  
Attorney for Estate:  
Matthew J. Shepherd, AR #2001-148  
Law Offices  
Shepherd & Shepherd, P.A.  
200 N. Jefferson Ave., Suite 600  
El Dorado, AR 71730

(s&s, 149w., 11,12)

ITEM OF THE WEEK

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OFFICE  
(870) 285-3121  
FOR INFORMATION

WILL BE CLOSED OCT. 14  
FOR COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY  
WE WILL BE OPEN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15  
8:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M.



# Arkansans encouraged to team up and clean up in the 2024 Great Arkansas Cleanup

LITTLE ROCK -- Keep Arkansas Beautiful (KAB) is calling on Arkansans to roll up their sleeves and help beautify The Natural State during the 2024 Great Arkansas Cleanup (GAC), running Sept. 7– Oct. 31.

The GAC is an annual statewide initiative led by Keep Arkansas Beautiful, a certified affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. In collaboration with Arkansas’ 13 certified Keep America Beautiful affiliates located throughout the state, this event brings together thousands of volunteers each year to lead local cleanups and beautification efforts during September and October.

Since its inception in 1969, the GAC has evolved into a cornerstone of environmental stewardship in Arkansas. From the initial cleanup at Greers Ferry Lake and the Little Red River to today’s statewide effort, the mission remains the same.

“Our goal is to unite the state in a collective effort to host cleanup events in all 75 Arkansas counties,” said Keep Arkansas Beautiful Executive Director McKenzie McMath Coronel. “The Great Arkansas Cleanup isn’t just about removing litter — it’s about fostering a sense of pride and responsibility, working together to restore and enhance our communities.”

In 2023, Keep Arkansas Beautiful mobilized 22,520 volunteers who contributed 147,230 hours to collect 636 tons of litter.



## Space and time

### Partial lunar eclipse Sept. 17

Space and time.

Vega, mentioned last week as the brightest star of the Summer Triangle, is 1,500 light years from earth.

A light year is a standard measure of astronomical distance based on the number of miles that light travels in one year, which comes to about 6 trillion miles.

The Vega we see tonight is the Vega of 1,500 years ago. Space and time.

Altair, another triangle star, has been a special star for me since I saw the Sci-fi movie “Forbidden Planet” at the Pike Theater in 1957, sixty-seven years ago. The movie takes place on a planet orbiting Altair in the 23rd Century. Altair is about 17 light years from Pike County. The movie’s monster gave me nightmares for two weeks. I now imagine that the light rays from the theater’s marquee that night are currently 67 light years from earth, or 402,000,000,000 miles away. Space and time.

There is a partial lunar eclipse the night of September 17, starting as the moon rises at about 8:40 p.m. CDT. It will peak at about 9:45 p.m.

The moon is in perigee, so it in supermoon mode again, and it also heralds the coming of fall as the Harvest Moon.

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UAMS

HOUSE CALL

Dr. Bala Simon is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Q: What does a physical therapist do?

A: A physical therapist is a health care provider who helps patients affected by disease or injury improve how they perform physical movements. Physical therapists also work with patients who require assistance gaining mobility or managing pain and chronic conditions due to age or other factors.

Physical therapists are not medical doctors or doctors of osteopathy, therefore they cannot diagnose health conditions or prescribe medicine. A Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from a program approved by the Commission of Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education is required to practice, along with passing a state licensing examination. The length of a DPT program is typically three years, and includes content such as anatomy, biology,

kinesiology, pathology and physiology.

A physical therapist may work in a patient’s home. Physical therapists may also be found in clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, physicians’ offices and sports and fitness facilities.

Working with a physical therapist is often a key component of a patient’s recovery from injury or surgery, or as part of a program to improve quality of life. If you’re impacted by pain or stiffness, contact your primary care provider for assistance. A physical therapist may be part of a customized treatment to manage your condition.

Email your health questions to [housecall@uams.edu](mailto:housecall@uams.edu).

These efforts spanned 2,132 miles of roadways, 327 miles of waterways, and 772,051 acres of parks and public spaces.

With cleanups registered in every county, the dedication of these volunteers returned an estimated \$5.4 million in economic value to local communities.

“By participating in the Great Arkansas Cleanup, you’re helping to enhance outdoor recreation areas, protect wildlife and boost the quality of life across our state,” said Shea Lewis, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism. “Clean, well-maintained spaces attract tourists, improve property values and create a healthier environment for everyone to enjoy.”

Registration is open for the 2024 GAC. Volunteers can register a cleanup event or sign up to participate in a scheduled event at [KeepArkansasBeautiful.com](http://KeepArkansasBeautiful.com).

Keep Arkansas Beautiful provides T-shirts as well as supplies to aid cleanup efforts on a “first come, first serve” basis. Requests must be made at least 14 days before the cleanup event date.

For information on how to participate in the Great Arkansas Cleanup, go to [KeepArkansasBeautiful.com](http://KeepArkansasBeautiful.com).

**LOCAL PROGRAM**

A GAC cleanup of Lake Greeson will be held locally on Saturday, September 14 at Kirby Landing Marina Pavilion starting at 8 a.m.

Bags, gloves, vests and water will be provided to participants. It is suggested volunteers wear closed toe shoes, sunscreen, bug spray, hat and whatever other protective items they feel are necessary.

Collected debris, bagged trash and other collected materials will be brought back to the marina, where dumpsters will be located.

Lunch will be served to participants at noon in the pavilion, and t-shirts will be provided while supplies last. A drawing for door prizes will conclude the event.

Card of Thanks

The family of Heath Watts would like to thank everyone for the out pouring of love we received when Heath passed away suddenly.

The visits, cards, text, phone calls, the beautiful flowers, delicious food, and most of all for the prayers that lifted us and kept us going. We would also like to say Thank You to Leon McKinnon for officiating and his kind words that inspired us to keep going.

Thank you all again,  
Janet, Aspen, Mark, Margaret, Brent, Markee

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# Obituaries

## Maxine Ensley, 86, Colony, KS

Maxine Ensley, age 86, of Colony, Kansas, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at her home. She was born on June 1, 1938, in Amity, Arkansas, the youngest daughter of Andy and Mabel (Ring) Nutt.

In her younger youth, her family traveled all over the United States to harvest many different crops. At the age of 10, she was working alongside her family in the fields. Maxine loved her MHS Class of 1957, and attended reunions every year.

In her life, she had many different jobs. Maxine ran a chicken catching crew, raised chickens and cattle, operated a Peach Orchard.

She was a loving mom and grandma, cherished friend, and vibrant soul. Maxine had a great personality and was known for her infectious laughter and warm heart. She had a deep love for her family and treasured spending time with them. Maxine also enjoyed the company of her

friends and found joy in their camaraderie. Additionally, she found excitement in trips to the casino, always savoring those moments of fun and entertainment.

Maxine was married to Winston Cox in 1953. This union was blessed with three children. They later divorced. In 1983, Maxine married Billy Wayne Stewart. He preceded her in death in 1988.

In 1992, Maxine married Thomas Ensley. He preceded her in death in 2018. Maxine was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Carlos Nutt and Carmen Cox; grandson, Derrick Hickey.

Maxine is survived by her children, Larry Cox of Conway, Garry Cox and Janice Steedley (Michael) of Colony, Kansas; grandchildren, Sarah Steedley (Ryan) of Topeka and Erin Clark (Matthew) of Mulvane, Kansas; step children, Randy Stewart (Marla), Bruce Stewart (Paulette), Debbie Abernathy (Elbert) of Kirby, Arkansas; and Rosalee (Stan) Blattner of Hutchinson, Kansas and numerous other family and friends.

A Celebration of Life graveside service will be held at Mt. Tabor on September 28, at 10 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Colony First Responders and can be left in the care of Feuerborn Family Funeral Service, 219 S. Oak St., Garnett, Kansas. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.feuerbornfuneral.com](http://www.feuerbornfuneral.com)

Pat G. Stone, 83, Delight

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Annagail Orndorff and Gloria Cook.

Survivors include his loving wife of 61 years Patsy Stone, two brothers Jack Stone, and Guy Stone; two sons Ben Stone and Timothy Stone, five grandchildren Lainee Manley, Layken Stone, Jessica Irwin, Sasha Franklin and JC Stone and five great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

You may send an online sympathy message at [www.latimerfuneralhome.com](http://www.latimerfuneralhome.com)

Terrie Gwen Clower, 45, Hot Springs

Terrie Gwen Clower, age 45 of Hot Springs, Arkansas, passed away on Saturday, September 8, 2024 at her home. She was born on May 2, 1979 in Prescott to Sue Hutcherson Maxwell and the late Billy Tom Brown.

She was preceded in death by her father, Billy Tom Brown.

Survivors include her husband, Paul Clower of Hot Springs; two daughters, Mia Babineaux and Emma Babineaux of Houston, Texas; her mother, Sue Maxwell; one step daughter Kate Clower; four siblings, Laura Randall of Sheridan, Susie Wells of Houston, Texas, Donna Ann Ferguson

of Okolona and Eddie Brown of Okolona; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family received friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at Liberty Hill Baptist Church near Pisgah.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Pisgah with Bro. John David Watson and Bro. Donnie Deaton officiating. Interment will follow in Delight Cemetery, under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home of Murfreesboro.

Where To Find A Copy of the Diamond:

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6	4	8	7	1	5	3	9	2



# DAR set to celebrate Constitution Week

SW ARKANSAS -- The Mine Creek–Paraclifta Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is preparing to celebrate Constitution Week in Southwest Arkansas.

In 1955, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution petitioned Congress with a resolution to set aside September 17-23 dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The annual celebration was established when signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on August 2, 1956.

Last year the Chapter had Proclamations signed by leaders from the three counties their Chapter consists of, Pike, Sevier and Howard. The group will try to do the same this year and they have several Constitution Week yard signs to set out. Chapter Regent, Elizabeth Overton, delivered a Constitution Kit to each of six schools in the area containing materials for educators to utilize during the week of September 17-23 last year and will be providing pocket Constitutions and Preamble bookmarks to refill them this year.

Members of the Chapter may be available for any educators who would like them to visit their classroom to share the importance of learning about the Constitution and our founding documents.

The Mine Creek–Paraclifta Chapter DAR met on September 10 this month, and any prospective members are always invited to attend future meetings. The DAR is open to any female who can trace her lineage back to a direct ancestor who either fought in or supported the American Revolution. Many are unaware that they might have a great aunt or grandmother who was a member, which makes it very easy to prove lineage.

With the upcoming 250th birthday of the signing of the Declaration of Independence coming up on July 4, 2026, the group is kicking off the celebration of AMERICA 250! with a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence on October 18 at 11 a.m. at the Micah 6:8 Coffee Shop in DeQueen.

The public is invited to hear Mr. Ethan Wolcott of DeQueen, read the Declaration of Independence to inspire the public to learn about our nation’s founding documents to help protect the precious gift of freedom we inherited from our ancestors.

There will be a reception immediately following for DAR members and invited guests at the Mercy Meeting & Event Center connected to the Micah 6:8 Coffee Shop.

Please help them to promote the founding principles our nation was built upon so that we can celebrate AMERICA 250! and preserve them for our descendants.



# You are invited to a public reading of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE!

(dramatic reading by Ethan Wolcott)

**WHEN:** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024 - 11AM

**WHERE:** MICAH 6:8 COFFEESHOP  
(304 DeQueen Ave., DeQueen, AR 71832)

\*Immediately following, the Mine Creek – Paraclifta Daughters of the American Revolution will be hosting an AMERICA250 Reception, for DAR members and guests, at the *Mercy Meeting & Event Center*, located next to the coffeeshop, to unveil the AMERICA 250 PATRIOT MARKER, in celebration of our nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. The historic marker will be placed at the trailhead of the DeQueen Lake Trail when completed in the Spring 2025, just in time for AMERICA 250!

PLEASE RSVP: [Arky4me@gmail.com](mailto:Arky4me@gmail.com), [Overton24@gmail.com](mailto:Overton24@gmail.com), 870-784-0607, or 870-845-8419



# Penalties stiffen for drug reimbursements

**STATE CAPITOL WEEK IN REVIEW**  
*Senator Steve Crowell*

LITTLE ROCK – A legislative committee has signed off on stronger penalties against pharmacy benefit managers that fail to reimburse local drug stores according to rates established in state law.

The Senate and House Committees on Insurance and Commerce reviewed and accepted new rules proposed by the Arkansas Insurance Department. The rules govern reimbursements paid by pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to pharmacies.

An important provision in the rules prohibits PBMs from reimbursing independent pharmacies at lower rates than they pay to pharmacies owned by or affiliated with the PBMs. Also, PBMs must reimburse local pharmacies at a rate known as NADAC, which stands for national average drug acquisition cost.

Legislators have been hearing concerns from local pharmacies about the disparities in reimbursements, and about their concerns that they may have to close if PBMs don’t adjust their reimbursement rates.

The Insurance Department receives about 1,500 complaints a month from local, independent pharmacies about alleged violations of the law. Regulators believe that many more possible violations are not reported because

pharmacists just don’t have time to fill out the paperwork.

The Department may levy a \$5,000 fine for each violation, with a cap of \$50,000. However, under the proposed new rules there would be no cap on financial penalties.

The Department notified PBMs in March that stricter rules were being proposed. In August the governor and the state Insurance Commissioner announced fines of \$1.47 million against four major PBMs.

Arkansas was one of the first states in the country to regulate PBMs, which are companies that negotiate contracts between manufacturers, health insurance providers and local pharmacies. In that role they act as a middle man, and they’re instrumental in the prices that consumers pay for prescription drugs.

Since the legislature passed Act 900 of 2015, the Insurance Department has regulated the reimbursements paid by PBMs to pharmacies. Act 900 was challenged in court by PBMs but was upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

In a 2018 special session the legislature strengthened the Insurance Department’s authority to license and regulate PBMs.

The first attempt to regulate PBMs in Arkansas was in 2003. The Senate passed a bill to regulate the companies, but it died in the House.

# ASMSA expands offerings to grades 6-8

HOT SPRINGS — The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts Talent Identification Program has expanded to include Arkansas students from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades in its second year.

ASMSA-TIP provides gifted students, parents and educators with resources and guidance that are tailored to support a child’s educational, social and emotional development. Such programs empower students to reach their full potential while helping parents and educators make the best educational decisions for their students.

Seventh- and eighth-grade participants will receive a voucher to take the ACT as an “above-level” test, a standardized assessment that is designed for a higher grade level, as well as support leading up to taking the ACT, help interpreting ACT scores and identifying activities for talent development. All participants will receive

monthly e-newsletters with specific content for gifted and talented students and their parents, access to webinar sessions with Gifted and Talented (GT) professionals, and access to a variety of in-person and virtual programming designed to enrich students’ learning and develop their talents.

This is the second year of the program. For the 2023-24 academic year, the program only included seventh-graders, but strong interest in it led ASMSA-TIP to accept sixth- and eighth-graders for the 2024-25 cohort. Registration for this year’s program is open at <https://asmsa.me/asmsa-tipregistration24>.

Interest in the first year of the program was strong as it served 232 middle school students from 38 Arkansas counties. Participants came from 60 schools, and 48 also attended a Sum-

ASMSA Continued on Page 5

# MURFREESBORO CADC SENIOR LUNCH MENU

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
Ham w/ pineapple, sweet potatoes, broccoli, chocolate cake

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
Hamburger steak w/ onion & gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, frosted brownie

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

Cheesy chicken pasta, California blend vegetables, salad, garlic bread, ice cream

Lunch served at 11:30 a.m. For more information (870) 285-2312

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# SOUTH PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL MENU

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**  
Breakfast: Powered donut or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Beef fingers, mashed potatoes, steamed broccoli, whole grain roll, applesauce, milk- 3-6 Crustable sack lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option, popcorn chicken

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
Breakfast: Sausage croissant or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Pizza stick, salad, fresh cauliflower w/ ranch, mixed fruit, milk- 3-6 Crustable sack lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option big daddy pepperoni pizza

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
Breakfast: Pancakes or cereal, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch: Cheeseburger fries, lettuce, tomato, baked beans, peaches, milk- 3-6 Crustable sack

lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option, chicken sandwich

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
Breakfast: Sausage biscuit or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Taco soup, carrot & celery sticks, corn chips, 7-12 rice crispy treat, mixed fruit, milk- 3-6 Crustable sack lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option snack taco

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**  
Breakfast: Blueberry muffin or cereal, juice, fruit, milk

Lunch: Chicken spaghetti, seasoned broccoli, Italian vegetable blend, garlic bread, pineapple, milk- 3-6 Crustable lunch option, 7-12 line 2 option, orange chicken w/ fried rice


*\*Due to food item shortages menus are subject to change without notice. Any changes to the menu will be posted on the website at [www.rattlers.org](http://www.rattlers.org)*

# ‘Dear Preacher’

By Buddy Ray, Murfreesboro Church of Christ

THE HEARING OF FAITH

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Galatians 3:1-2 There is a way of hearing the gospel that will lead you to the Lord. There is a way of listening that will lead you away from the truth. Everyone has some concept of what the Bible teaches. Our own understanding of the Holy Scriptures is based upon what we perceive to be the truth about our soul’s salvation. The hearing that will save is the heart listening to God’s will, no mat-



ter how it agrees or disagrees with our own convictions. The hearing of faith is completely in agreement with what God commands us to do to be saved. We are to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29) Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands you sin-

ners; and purify your hearts you double-minded. James 4:7,8 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up. James 4:10 Therefore, to him that knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17 Paul and James insist by inspiration that the hearing of faith involves paying clear attention to God’s revealed will and being faithfully obedient to it. To do less is sin. To do more is also rebellious. If you are a child of God, continue to grow in God’s grace and truth. If you are not a child of God, be born again of water and the Spirit. Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins and God will cleanse you and add you to His Church. (Acts 2:38-47).

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# Facts About The BIBLE

BY JOHN LEHTI

THIS IS A DRAMATIZED VERSION OF FACTS TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF AMOS, CHRONOLOGICALLY AND AUTHENTICALLY CONSOLIDATED INTO ONE CHAPTER.

**AMOS**

AMOS HAS ENTERED THE TEMPLE AT BETHEL, WHERE KING JEROBOAM HAS HIS SUMMER PALACE, AND HAS STARTED TO REBATE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL FOR ALL THEIR SINFUL WAYS....

WE SHOULD STONE HIM FOR HIS WORDS!

BUT IT IS NOT ALLOWED, TO HARM A HOLY MAN!

HOW DO WE KNOW HE IS A HOLY MAN? HE MAY YET BE A FALSE PROPHET!

THE LORD SINCE TOLD ME, EVEN THE KING WILL HE DESTROY FOR ISRAEL'S TRANSGRESSIONS!

NOW A CURTAIN PARTS AND AN IRATE FIGURE PEERS AT AMOS--IT IS AMAZIAH, THE HIGH PRIEST OF BETHEL....

AND THE HIGH PRIEST IS FILLED WITH FIRE AT AMOS' PROPHECIES....

GO, TELL THE KING THAT A COMMON HERDSDR NAMED AMOS HATH CONSPIRED AGAINST HIM! SAY THAT THE LAND IS NOT ABLE TO BEAR HIS WORDS!

THAT SUCH A THING SHOULD HAPPEN IN THE TEMPLE WHERE HE IS HIGH PRIEST! THAT THE KING, HIMSELF, SHOULD BE THREATENED! THIS ILLITERATE UP-START MUST BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY!

Next Week THE CONFRONTATION!

270

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\* -- Theme Related Clue

ACROSS

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- 6. Cuban dance syllable
- 9. 100-meter race, e.g.
- 13. S-shaped moldings
- 14. Excessively theatrical actor
- 15. Chap
- 16. Will alternative
- 17. Sailor’s affirmative
- 18. At full speed
- 19. \*Cause for fall celebration
- 21. \*Apple-related game
- 23. European Union, acr.
- 24. Hawaiian tuber
- 25. Pen on a farm
- 28. Color of a bruise
- 30. \*Pumpkins and squash, e.g.
- 35. “Give me your tired, your \_\_\_\_\_”
- 37. “\_\_\_\_\_Free,” movie about lions
- 39. Disdain
- 40. Caribbean color
- 41. Shiny suit
- 43. Spaghetti aglio and \_\_\_\_\_
- 44. Peevish
- 46. Half a round, in golf
- 47. \_\_\_\_\_do-well
- 48. Battles royale
- 50. Change for a twenty
- 52. Banned insecticide, acr.
- 53. \*Back-to-School event
- 55. Hermey the Dentist
- 57. \*Apple sauce
- 61. \*\_\_\_\_\_weather
- 65. Cell phone bill item
- 66. Bar association
- 68. Wombs
- 69. Begin, began, \_\_\_\_\_
- 70. Cut grass
- 71. Romanov rulers
- 72. Command with “at”
- 73. Stiff grass bristle

74. “Hobby” animal

DOWN

- 1. Beckham of “Spice Girls”
- 2. Turkish honorific
- 3. Not far
- 4. Look into
- 5. In the Land of Nod
- 6. Online conversation
- 7. \*Cushion for certain seasonal ride
- 8. Naked protozoa
- 9. Obtuse, as in person
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_bowl, frozen dish
- 11. Largest human organ
- 12. Precedes Kong
- 15. Hindi courtesy title, pl.
- 20. Modern-day aqua-lung, acr.
- 22. Domain
- 24. Wood-eating house hazard
- 25. Involuntary contraction
- 26. Chef’s headgear
- 27. Phil Collins’ “\_\_\_\_\_Be in My Heart”
- 29. \*Maze plant
- 31. Upward and onto
- 32. Wide-\_\_\_\_\_notebook
- 33. \*Like leaves in fall
- 34. Stall call
- 36. \*Much-used fall garden tool
- 38. Not any
- 42. Extend subscription
- 45. Unquestioning ones
- 49. Fraternity house
- 51. Miss Marple, e.g.
- 54. “Is Your Mama a \_\_\_\_\_?”
- 56. Dom DeLuise in 1980 role
- 57. Rubik’s puzzle
- 58. Away from port
- 59. The state before riches?
- 60. Malaria symptom
- 61. Saw, sawed, \_\_\_\_\_
- 62. Drop of sorrow
- 63. Makes a mistake
- 64. Precedes shine
- 67. Gift topper

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# Friday the 13th -- amusing or scary?

## Over \$800 million in business lost nationally on those days

BY TOM EMERY

On this day, millions of Americans are nervous, and some will even stay home. Others will laugh it off. It’s just another day on the calendar – or is it?

This Friday is Friday the 13th, the best-known superstition of all, which evokes a range of emotions. Commonly associated with bad luck, the day drives many to distraction – if they notice it at all.

“I pay absolutely no attention to it, whatsoever,” said Lynn Armstrong, 71, a library worker and volunteer from Carlinville, Ill. “I don’t believe in any of that stuff. It’s a day like any other.”

There are many who disagree. The North Carolina-based Stress Management Center and Phobia Institute reports that between 17 and 21 million Americans harbor a fear of Friday the 13th. Since many of them stay home, refuse to fly, or otherwise change their plans, an estimated \$800 to \$900 million in business is lost nationwide each time the thirteenth falls on a Friday.

This is the only time that Friday the 13th will occur in 2024. The date also fell just once in both 2021 and 2022. There were two occurrences each year from 2017-20, as well as in 2023. The maximum number of times that the thirteenth is a Friday in any given year is three, but it is guaranteed to come up at least once a year.

Fourteen months is the longest stretch possible between any Friday the 13th, which is still enough to make many shudder.

Part of the reason is the simple fear of the number thirteen, or triskaidekaphobia. Enough people carry this fear that the number is routinely omitted from parts of daily life. Many hotels do not number rooms ending in thirteen, and less than five percent of residential condos in Manhattan and Brooklyn are said to have a thirteenth floor.

Similarly, the two top elevator manufacturers in the world,

Otis and Moline, Ill.-based Kone, offer plans for building owners to leave out the number 13 button in their elevators. In 2014, Irish carrier Ryanair announced it would remove row 13 from their aircraft, while the number is also omitted from many aisles, flights, and gates in air travel.

Fear of Friday the 13th adds a few letters to the name, creating the unwieldy friggatriskaidekaphobia. The prefix is from Frigg, the Norse goddess of wisdom that gives Friday its name, and may be a clue to the origins of the discomfort of Friday the 13th.

Some believe the fear is rooted in Norse myth, while others point to the Bible, arguing that Judas was the 13th guest at the Last Supper, and Jesus was crucified on a Friday. Still others cite a 1907 novel by stockbroker Thomas Lawson, Friday the 13th, which opens with those same three words.

Whatever the case, Friday the 13th has found its place in pop culture. The movie franchise of the same name has grossed \$464 million at the box office since its introduction in 1980.

Many, however, scoff at any notion of the dastardly day. “For me, Friday the 13th is like a horoscope,” said Peter Oswald, 70, a public-relations expert and designer. “I look at it the day after, to see if any of it came true.

“On Saturday the 14th, I think back and ask, was the thirteenth really that bad of a day?” pondered Oswald, with a wry smile. “And usually, it wasn’t.”

Believers, though, point to odd occurrences. On Friday, the 13th of August in 2010, newspapers in Great Britain reported that a boy was treated after being struck by lightning at 1:13 p.m., or 13:13 military time. The age of the boy? Thirteen.

A few unlucky events in history have happened on Friday the 13th. On Sept. 13, 1940, Nazi planes dropped five bombs on Buckingham Palace. A cyclone that devastated Bangladesh was at its worst on Nov. 13, 1970, and eventually killed over 500,000 people.

Less deadly was the shipwreck of the luxury liner Costa Concordia off Italy on Jan. 13, 2012, which claimed thirty lives and cost an estimated \$2 billion.

Notable events in American history on Friday the 13th include a Civil War milestone. On June 13, 1862, Confederate Gen. Jeb Stuart humiliated the North by riding his cavalry force completely around the Union Army of the Potomac.

So Friday the 13th lives on, at least in the minds of the fearful. Many others, though, just don’t care.

“I don’t get anxious about it, because I’m not superstitious,” said Mikayla Rodgers, 20, a junior at the University of Illinois-Springfield. “I don’t dislike it at all. I think it’s actually kind of fun.”

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Ill. He may be reached at (217) 710-8392 or ilcivilwar@yahoo.com.

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LEGAL NOTI

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PUL COUNTY, ARKANSAS, PROBATE**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE DYANN MCMASTER, DECEASED**  
NO. 60PR-23-592

Name of Decedent: Dyann M Last Known Address: 1201 Carolyn St. Jacksonville, AR 72076

Date of Death: August 5, 202

**NOTICE**  
On March 20, 2023, an affidavit of small estate by distributee respect to the estate of Dya deceased, with the clerk of division of the circuit court of Arkansas, under Ark. Code Ann. The legal description of the real in the affidavit is as follows: St. Jacksonville, AR 72076, Lot Keaton WW Addn. All persons against the estate must exhibit verified, to the distributee or his within three (3) months from t first publication of this notice o forever barred and precluded fr of the estate. The name, m and telephone number of the distributee’s attorney is: Hol 42 Byrd Ln Cabot, AR 72023. T published the 28TH day of Marc 3/28/4/23

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## ASMSA Continued from Page 4

mer@ASMSA camp. The top three students in the AMC 8, a math competition organized by the Mathematical Association of America that was held at ASMSA in January, were TIP scholars. Hicks said the first-year success confirms the need for this kind of program in Arkansas.

“I believe that ASMSA-TIP helps to meet a need in Arkansas’ educational environment,” said Dr. Ashley Hicks, ASMSA’s outreach coordinator. “Several of our successes wouldn’t have been possible without partnerships with educational co-op GT specialists and GT coordinators /educators at specific school districts. As we continue to expand our network, I look forward to seeing how the program can continue to grow and benefit middle grade students throughout the state.”

The first year of the program also received praise from educators across the state. Debbie Dailey, Ed.D, is an associate professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning and serves as interim associate dean for the College of Education at the University of Central Arkansas. Alicia Cotabish, Ed.D., is a professor in UCA’s Department of Teaching and Learning and serves as the CLEI Ph.D. program director.

“As educators committed to the advancement of knowledge and the empowerment of students, we recognize the immense value of ASMSA-TIP in cultivating the next generation of leaders, innovators, and scholars. We stand in support of ASMSA-TIP’s efforts to identify and support gifted and talented students in Arkansas, knowing that their success is not only vital to their individual growth but also to the prosperity and progress of our state and society as a whole,” the two educators said in a statement of support for the program.

The program is made possible through grants from the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation and the Ross Foundation. Additional information is available at asmsa.org/tip.

About ASMSA: The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts is one of 17 public residential high schools in the country specializing in the education of academically gifted students. Located in historic downtown Hot Springs, the school is a campus of the University of Arkansas System. For more information about Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts, visit www.asmsa.org or call 501.622.5100.

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P	O	O	R			B	O	R	N			S	P	U	R
A	Q	U	A			A	R	M	O	R			O	L	I
S	U	L	K	Y		N	I	N	E			N	E	E	R
M	E	L	E	E	S		T	E	N	S			D	D	T
						S	A	L	E			E	L	F	
C	A	R	A	M	E	L				S	W	E	A	T	E
U	S	A	G	E			A	B	A			U	T	E	R
B	E	G	U	N			M	O	W			T	S	A	R
E	A	S	E				A	W	N			H	O	R	S



# The Holiday Season Nears



Submitted photos/Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce

**THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE ...** A volunteer group met at Branch Oil last Saturday to continue readying the Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce Christmas decorations that will be displayed throughout town this December. The group has had two work meetings recently in which lights were repaired on dozens of decorations. More volunteers are always needed, for this and a number of other Chamber ventures, so if you would like to donate your time, please call (870) 285-3131 to inquire about the next available opportunity.



## RATTLERS VERSUS FOUKE



**Set your goals high,  
and don't stop till you get there!**

**Have a great season Rattlers!!**



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